

# American Troops on Amiens Front Repulse Surprise Attacks, Haig Reports

## SAMMIES HOLD THEIR GROUND TO SOUTH OF HANGARD HILL

LONDON, May 25.—Hostile artillery firing in the vicinity of Villers-Bretonneux was reported by Field Marshal Haig.

German bombardments on the Flan-dera front and minor raiding operations were also reported.

Haig said that hostile artillery shelled the British positions east of Bethune with gas and increased its activity in the Tréves sector. British troops gained German trenches at Hamel, taking forty prisoners and two machine guns, and also a number of prisoners in a raid near Lens.

German surprise attacks were repulsed south of Hangard Wood (on the Amiens front), where American troops recently replaced the famous French Foreign Legion in the line, and in the Voges, the French war office said.

Prisoners were taken in successful raids west of Noyon and in the Woëvre region.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN LORRAINE, May 26 (Night).—American negro troops are holding a portion of the line west of Verdun in conjunction with French forces. It is now permitted to announce.

Headquarters declares these Americans "are making an exceptionally good showing in the trenches."

For some time unofficial dispatches have mentioned American forces operating in the Argonne region. This is the important area. It includes big Argonne forest and the city of St. Meneshold, which is about six miles back of the line.

## AMERICANS SHELL MONTDIDIER AGAIN

WITH THE AMERICANS IN PICARDY, May 24 (delayed).—Great activity was observed in Montdidier today. Nearly a hundred camions (motor trucks) and several groups of horsemen were observed entering the town. This was regarded as another indication of the possibility of an attack in this region.

The American artillery shelled the town, but the result was not announced.

The weather has turned suddenly cold. It is cloudy, and the high winds have driven the sausage balloons out of the sky for the first time this month. The weather also has hampered the airplanes.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, May 26.—An American raid, which inflicted a number of casualties on the enemy and resulted in the capture of some German prisoners, was the principal activity by the American troops yesterday, according to the official American statement.

In Picardy the quiet which has prevailed for the past few days continued.

## U. S. TROOPS PIERCE LINE IN PICARDY

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, May 26.—American soldiers on the French sector in Picardy penetrated the German lines in a certain wood, killed five Germans, and captured one. They themselves suffered no casualties.

The dash and successful coup took a German outpost completely by surprise.

The German prisoner taken in this action talked freely. He claimed his company had no special practice for assaults and that he had heard nothing of projected attacks. He said the new trenches were being dug behind the German lines and no new weapons were being constructed. The quality of the food served the German troops on the immediate front line was poor, he asserted, and added that the German morale was low.

"I am anxious for the war to end," said the prisoner. "I want to return to my family. Many of my comrades feel the same way."

He declared he knew nothing of a future German offensive.

## ATTACKS BROKEN, BERLIN CLAIMS

BERLIN VIA LONDON, May 26.—

The war office statement follows: "Owing to storm and rain, the activity of the artillery was moderate. It increased, however, intermittently to some intensity in connection with overnight attacks by the enemy at Kemmel and in the Albert sector. These attacks were broken by us with heavy losses to the enemy."

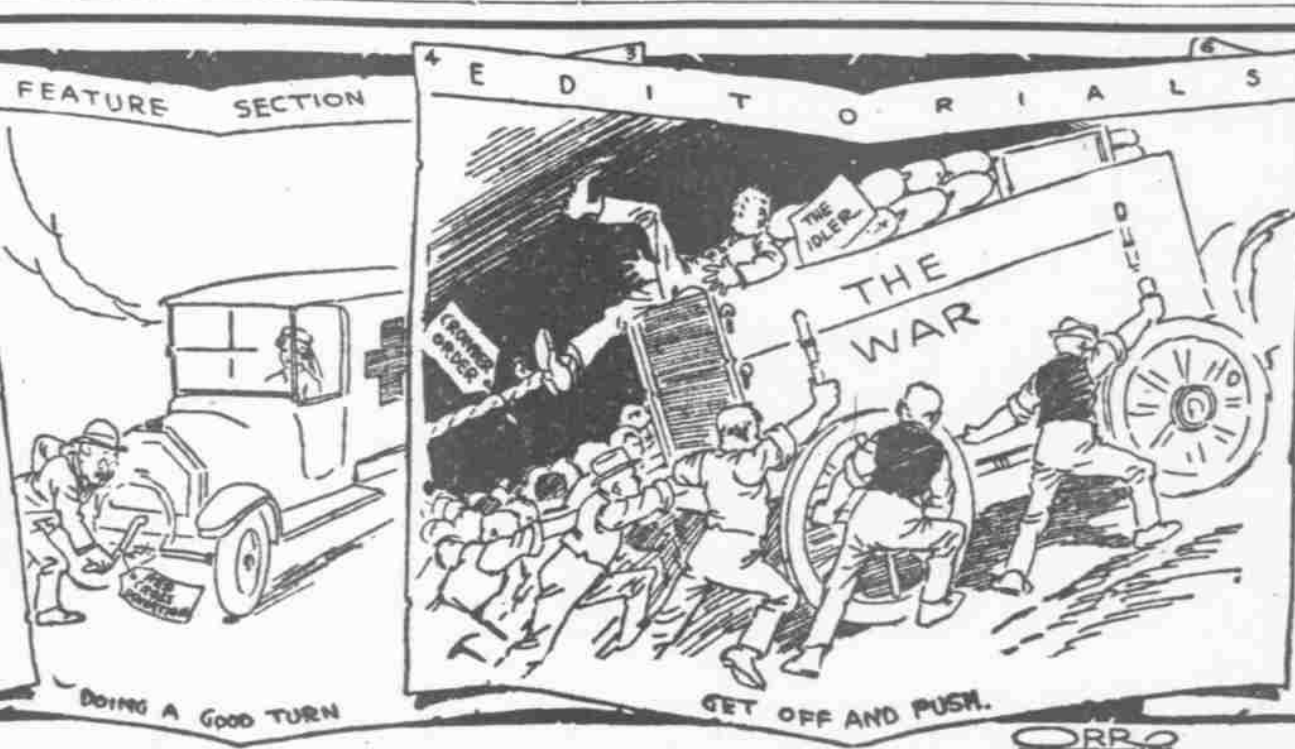
"In the neighborhood of Hamel we threw back an enemy counter attack, the enemy's storming columns being shot to pieces before they could reach our lines."

"Four enemy battle planes and an observation plane were brought down."

## DINE AT THE DAWAY HOTEL

SPECIAL, \$1.25

Table d'Hôte Dinner, 6 to 8. Wm. FRANK P. FENWICK, PROP.



## KCB's Town Gossip

"It is easy to sit outside and say how the man inside should run the machine, but it is not so easy to go inside and run the machine yourself."

Extracts from a speech of Theodore Roosevelt while he was President of the United States.

MY DEAR T. R.

A LONG time ago.

WHEN I was a boy.

I WAS elected president.

OF A boy's club.

AND I had an idea.

THAT THEY chose me.

BECAUSE THEY believed.

I WAS the brightest boy.

IN THE village.

AND I believed I was.

AND I liked it.

AND HAD a good time.

WHILE I was president.

AND AFTER awhile.

THERE WAS another election.

AND THE other boy.

GOT ALL the votes.

AND BEAT me.

AND FOR the first time.

IN MY young life.

I WAS in doubt.

AS TO my brightness.

BUT I didn't let on.

AND KEPT pretending.

I WAS the brightest.

AND TALKED all the time.

AND SUGGESTED things.

BUT NONE of the boys.

PAID any attention.

TO WHAT I said.

AND ALL the time.

THE CLUB was growing.

AND GETTING better.

AND I thank you.

AND THEY tell me.

I'M GETTING fat.

AND I just want to tell you.

THAT WHAT you said.

ABOUT THE man outside.

AND THE man inside.

IS RIGHT.

AND I thank you.

AND I thank you.

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## SAYS SPIRIT OF DEAD BRIDE GAVE NAME OF SLAYER

By Staff Correspondent.

RICHMOND, Va., May 26.—That the spirit of Alice Knight Johnson, nineteen-year-old secret bride of Dr. Lemuel J. Johnson, the young North Carolina dentist, has returned since the girl's death from poisoning and told her that "Dr. Johnson is guilty" is the claim Mrs. George Knight, the dead bride's mother, made to The Times representative today.

Johnson is on trial in hustings court here charged with murdering his bride by giving her capsules of cyanide poisoning.

"If the court would only let me face Dr. Johnson and tell him all that Alice has told me since her death, he would not dare look me in the face and deny his guilt," Mrs. Knight said with great feeling and conviction.

The mother is a deeply religious woman. She believes that departed loved ones commune with those on earth, that they return to clear up misunderstandings, to console and to comfort.

"I prayed day and night for Alice to return just long enough to tell me who is guilty, and my prayer has been answered," Mrs. Knight said.

"Alice appeared to me and said: 'Dr. Johnson is guilty.'"

Went to Southwayer.

It was made known today that shortly before her marriage on September 18 last to Johnson, Alice Knight, more in jest than in earnest, went with a girl chum to a soothsayer in Richmond. The fortune teller said:

"I see in the future a great sorrow that will come to you. It will break the heart of your family and almost break up your home."

The girl, about to become a bride, was so interested that she visited another seer and got a similar message.

George E. Knight, the dead bride's father, told The Times representative that less than a week before his daughter's death by poisoning she announced she was going to clean up and improve the family burying lot in the Richmond cemetery, where a granite tomb, on which was the name "Johnson," she called the matter to her sister's attention, remarking, "I wonder what that means?"

The little pastebord "poison box" which was introduced as evidence in the case has been referred to as prophetic. Received on Christmas, 1917, the box contained a five dollar gold piece which was a gift from the medical college faculty where Alice was employed, but on the box was written "poison, take as needed." The little box caused her much concern, she wondered why the wording. A year rolled by and Alice died of poisoning. But the little box remained intact.

An effort has been made by Johnson's counsel to show that Alice may have taken poison from the box by mistake, but the Commonwealth contends it never contained poison.

A pathetic figure of the trial is Dewey Johnson, seventeen-year-old brother of the young defendant. Dewey, an unsophisticated country boy, is having his first experience as an attendant in court. The brother, whom he has tried to emulate, and who had promised him an education from his first earnings from the practice of his profession—the brother who had been chosen by the family to break away from the farm and make of himself a figure in the professional world—is on trial charged with murder.

Dewey is the only representative of the immediate family. His mother sent him to bring her oldest son back to her. He sits at ease while evidence favorable to his brother is offered, but the sallow of the Commonwealth discredits him. Of how he is ignorant, but he is conscious of the difference between evidence that will help and that which will injure the case of big brother Lem.

Exhausted by the strain of five hours on the witness stand in his own behalf, Dr. Johnson was taken to the jail hospital Friday night. Several hours later, jail attendants were startled by the sound of weeping and

praying coming from his ward. Johnson was crying out in prayer that ended with a wail. When Dr. J. D. Freeman, an internist, opened the door and asked if he could do anything for him, the young dentist looked up and said: "Give me a cigarette."

Johnson completed the ritual of his direct testimony yesterday afternoon and was taken in hand by the Commonwealth for cross-examination. He will resume the stand Monday morning. He assailed the testimony given by a Cloyd Gill, the Washington Times correspondent, who swore that Johnson had confessed to him. He said that Gill came to the jail, bringing him fruit, cigarettes, magazines, etc.

"He asked me a great many questions about my early life at first," Johnson said. "At last he said that he could certainly sympathize with me and knew just how I felt, the great strain and everything, because he had been through it all. I asked him what he meant, and he said that he had once been tried for his life."

"Mr. Gill said that his trouble happened when he was associate editor of a paper in Atlanta. He said he was in a poker game that broke up in a quarrel and that he shot a man. He said that the papers had a great deal about the case."

Sent for Editor.

"After being locked up, Gill said, he sent for an editor on his paper, who asked him to plead guilty. It was arranged, Gill said, for him to have plenty of space on the front page every day to present his case and work up public sentiment and sympathy. As a result of this publicity, Gill said, he was saved from the 'pen.' He told me that he owed all the happiness he enjoys today to the kind heart of the editor who gave him the space."

Gill testified several days ago that he and Johnson collaborated on preparing the first of a series of several articles for Gill's Washington paper, designed to work up sympathy for Johnson. Johnson did not sign the statement, but Gill said that Johnson swore to him that the statement was true and agreed to telegraph him later, giving a release on its publication.

"If you ever told Gill you killed your wife," asked Woodward.

"No," the prisoner said. "I always denied that I did. Then he would say, 'Come clean; I know you did it.'"

On cross examination, Johnson was questioned at length as to the several farewell letters he is said to have written after he attempted suicide at a Wilson (North Carolina) hotel. He said he did not remember writing the letters but confessed he had written them when they were offered him for identification. He also said he had often entertained the same sentiments in his mind that were contained in the letters.

Quoted From Letter.

Prosecutor George E. Wise quoted from one of the letters addressed to Miss Ollie White, Johnson's sweetheart in Middlesex, whom he said he had "called sweetheart for eight years." It said "today is one day that has taken all the joy out of my life."

He asked Johnson what it meant. The defendant said he could not remember what gave rise to the statement.

"If I do not come by Thursday, you might know something has happened," Wise read from the letter. He asked the alleged wife-slayer what he meant by that.

"I can't remember," was the young dentist's answer. With his head bowed, and in a soft voice, almost a whisper, Johnson told the jury what he had not told Ollie White of his marriage to the Richmond girl, that it had been hastened by her physical condition. He said he alone was responsible for her condition.

"If Miss White had asked me about the marriage, I should have felt obliged to tell the whole truth," he said. Asked why he wrote Miss White, what he told her, he blundered in not telling Miss White of the marriage, but said after the unexpected affair in Richmond on September 18 he could not tell her because it would be a reflection on his wife.

Johnson will probably be the last witness for the defense. The cross-examination will consume a part of Monday, after which rebuttal witnesses will be called by the Commonwealth. The case has already consumed ten days, and it is probable it will not go to the jury before Wednesday.

## 6,677 Casualties to Date in Forces Abroad

Total casualties in the American expeditionary forces abroad to date are as follows:

ARMY.

Previously reported. Reported May 25. Total.

Killed in action. 530 4 534

Killed in accident. 249 0 249

Died of disease. 1,089 3 1,092

Died of wounds. 220 4 224

Died from other causes. 74 0 74

Lost at sea. 238 58 296

Civilians. 7 0 7

Total deaths. 2,407 64 2,471

Wounded. 3,589 12 3,581

Captured. 87 0 87

Missing in action. 225 0 225

Total army casualties. 6,238 76 6,314

MARINES.

Previously reported. Reported May 25. Total.

Killed in action. 29 0 29

Killed in accident. 2 0 2

Died of disease. 5 0 5

Died of wounds. 18 0 18

Total deaths. 54 0 54

Wounded. 806 0 806

Missing. 2 0 2

Total marines casualties. 862 0 862

## WOMEN TO WEAR BLACK BAND WITH STARS FOR DEAD

American women who have lost members of their families in the service of the nation will wear a black arm band, bearing a gold star, instead of mourning, if a plan recommended by the women's committee, Council of National Defense, is generally adopted.

President Wilson, in a letter to the chairman of the committee, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, has approved the resolution of the committee. He said:

"My dear Dr. Shaw:

"Thank you for your letter of yesterday. I do entirely approve of the action taken by the Women's Committee in executive session, namely that a three-inch black band should be worn upon which a gilt star may be placed for each member of the family whose life is lost in the service, and that the band shall be worn on the left arm. I hope and believe that thoughtful people everywhere will approve of this action and I hope that you will be kind enough to make the suggestion of the committee public with the statement that it has my cordial endorsement."

"Cordially and sincerely yours, WOODROW WILSON."

For a long time the woman's committee has been receiving letters from women urging the action. It was said, and the determined avoidance of mourning by Englishwomen has been much commented on and praised. One woman who advocates this step has four sons in the service, one of whom has already been killed. She wrote recently:

"I know the costliness of such supreme glory and sacrifice, and have felt both the selfish temptation to hide my pain behind a mourning that would hold off intrusion, and the inspiration and stimulus of keeping up to my gallant son's expectation that I should regard his death as a happy promotion into higher service. Patriotism means such exalted living that dying is not the harder part."

The insignia which has been chosen by the woman's committee can be readily made at home of whatever material can be procured. The committee says it believes the wearing of such insignia will express better than mourning the feeling of the American people that such losses are a matter of glory rather than of prostrating grief and depression."

Don't wish that you could do something to "serve" while you still have your income tax to pay.

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MEXICO EXPLAINS HER BREAK WITH CUBAN REPUBLIC

(Continued from First Page.)

forts would not produce at this time any practical results and would only produce tension in our relations which would have to be cleared up later to maintain unbroken the fraternal sentiments of solidarity which have always bound us to the people of Cuba and all Latin-American countries.

"Mexico upon recalling her diplomatic representatives from Cuba gives eloquent proof of her consideration and respect for the sovereignty of a friendly government which is now passing through a critical period. At the same time it furnishes proof of confidence in virtue of which the Mexican government expects her citizens will be treated with all the benevolence that the laws of Cuba and her institutions permit, under which protection they will remain in that republic the same as her own nationals."

Looks to Future Amity.

"In so doing the Mexican government complies faithfully with the line

## 13,752 CASUALTIES ON BRITISH LIST DURING LAST WEEK

LONDON, May 26.—British casualties in the official lists published during the past week totaled 13,752 (exclusive of men missing). They were divided as follows:

Officers—Killed, 202; wounded, 606; missing, 256.

Men—Killed, 2,335; wounded, 14,284.

Of conduct which President Carranza has proclaimed upon innumerable occasions as the highest ideal of a true society of nations, the equality of nationals and foreigners alike, and complete submission of all to the national sovereignty.

"The crisis having passed, as the one in which originated the revolution in this country is passing over, Mexico and Cuba will be in a better condition to renew diplomatic relations upon the basis of justice and equality only, and the great aspiration of the Mexican government in her new international relations."

## 2,000,000 TROOPS NOW UNDER ARMS, HOUSE INFORMED

America has built an army of more than 2,000,000 men, counting the April and May calls.

And, contrary to the general impression, a goodly number of airplanes are in this country and France.

These two inspiring facts stood out in the report of Chairman Dent of the army appropriation bill submitted officially to the House yesterday, in advance of this week's House action on the measure.

Nightly Increase.

The report showed that from a nucleus of a regular army of 137,588 officers and men, and a national guard of 142,420 officers and men April 1, 1917, the United States has formed a mighty fighting force totaling 2,000,000, with appropriations framed to provide ready for \$300,000 this year. However, the President's power will be such as to permit him to extend to any figure he sees fit, provided the committee's favorable recommendation is followed on that point.

The report showed that there are 1,816 flying machines in France, including more than 300 combat planes, while there are more than 3,700 machines in this country.

The report listed the aviation personnel as 12,107 officers and 136,761 men, including 4,954 flyers, while there are twenty-seven aviation camps in the country.

RED CROSS GIVES LIST OF AMERICAN WAR